

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7757

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

HEW WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCMNSUL MEDELLIN

AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA

/AMCONSUL CALI (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 10170

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA AND S/NM, DEA FOR EOIL, HEW FOR NIDA, AID FOR
SER/INC, EMBASSIES FOR NARCORS AND DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNARCO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: QUARTERLY REPORT, JULY-SEPT 1976

REF: BOGOTA 5826 AND 7580

SUMMARY: THE MISSION HAS SIGNED A NEW \$3.7 MILLION NARCOTICS CONTROL
PROJECT AGREEMENT PROVIDING THE GOC WITH AIRCRAFT, TECHNICAL SERVICES
AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR A NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT. OPERATION
FUNNELL-A CCINC-FUNDED TRI-COUNTRY EFFORT AIMED AT COCAINE TRAF-
FICKERS OPERATING IN COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND PERU-GOT UNDERWAY IN
EARLY SEPT. THE USIS NARCOTICS FILM, "A TRIP," WAS WELL RE-
CEIVED HERE AT ITS PREMIER SHOWINGS. NEARLY 85 GOC NARCOTICS AGENTS
GOT DEA OR US CUSTOMS TRAINING DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW;
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AND, A TDY US CUSTOMS TRAINING ADVISOR HAS ARRIVED IN COUNTRY TO
WORK WITH GOC CUSTMS IN DEVELOPING HOME-GROWN DRUG ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING PROGRAMS. A SEVERE DROUGHT HAS BADLY DAMAGED THE MARIJUANA
CROP IN NOHTHERN COLOMBIA. U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTS FOR TRAFFICKING

HAVE PICKED-UP FOLLOWING A SIX-MONTH LULL. END SUMMARY.

1. ABUSE. THE GOCMINHEALTH HAS PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED RESULTS AND ANALYSIS OF DRUG ABUSE STUDIES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN BOGOTA, BARRANQUILLA, AND BUCARAMANGA (BOGOTA A-113). COPIES OF THESE SURVEYS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEA, NIDA, AND OTHER INTERESTED WASHINGTON OFFICES. AS PART OF ITS PROGRAM OF DRUG ABUSE REDUCTION, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS ALSO PLANNING TO SPONSOR A NATIONAL SEMINAR FOR REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS IN MEDELLIN IN NOV. THE MINISTRY IS SEEKING US AND OTHER FOREIGN PARTICIPATION (SEPTEL) IN THIS SEMINAR.

2. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. DEA INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION IS SHIPPING LIQUID COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE IN LIQUOR BOTTLES TO THE U.S. VIA PRIVATE VESSELS.

3. TRAFFICING TRENDS. SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN COLOMBIA HAVE BADLY HURT THE MARIJUANA CROP IN THE GUAJIRA AND SIERRA NEVADA REGIONS. DEA HAS LEARNED THAT U.S. BUYERS RECENTLY REJECTED AND RETURNED TO COLOMBIA SEVERAL MARIJUANA SHIPMENTS OF EXTREME LOW QUALITY. ON THE COCAINE FRONT, U.S. CUSTOMS IN FLA IS CRACKING-DOWN ON SMUGGLING FROM THE COLOMBIAN BANANA PORT OF TURBO, ON THE NORTHERN COAST. CUSTOMS RECENTLY SEIZED TWO BANANA BOATS CHARTERED BY COLOMBIA'S UNION DE BANANEROS DE URABA (UNIBAN) FOLLOWING REPEATED VIOLATIONS. DEA-BOGOTA, THE US CONSUL IN MEDELLIN AND THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAVE BEEN ADVISING UNIBAN MN WHAT STEPS IT MIGHT TAKE TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM (MENCON 17 SEP), BUT LOCAL INTERDICTION RESULTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING LARGELY AS A RESULT OF WIDE-SPREAD OFFICIAL CORRUPTION AT TURBO PORT. (SEE MEDELLIN 172 AND 186 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.)

4. ENFORCEMENT: OPERATION FUNNEL GOT UNDERWAY IN COLOMBIA ON SEPT 10TH. THE CCINC-DEA-ASSISTED EFFORT IS AIMED AT FOSTERING BETTER COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG COLOMBIAN, ECUADORIAN, AND PERUVIAN NARCOTICS POLICE AND AT DEVELOPING CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIONABLE HARD INTELLIGENCE ON MAJOR COCAINE TRAFFICKING RINGS IN THE THREE COUNTRIES. FUNNEL IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST NOV 30. AT PRESENT, IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL EXACTLY WHAT IMPACT THE OPERATION MIGHT HAVE ON INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS OF ILLEGAL COCAINE THROUGH COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. TREATMENT, EDUCATION, REHABILITATION. THE NEW USIS DRUG FILM, "A TRIP" PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS, HAS RECEIVED VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT HERE FOLLOWING ITS SEPT 8, VIP PREMIER AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. (BOGOTA 5488, 9996, AND USIS FM-59). THE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE AND USIS PLAN TO USE THE 23 MINUTE COLOR PRODUCTION IN TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR GOC NARCOTICS AGENTS, IN SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS,

AND PERHAPS IN THEATERS AND ON TV AS WELL. USIA WILL DISTRIBUTE THE FILM WORLD-WIDE.

6. TRAINING. DEA MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS COMPLETED LAST MONTH IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR 130 NEW NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) NARCOTICS OPERATIVES. THE NEWLY-TRAINED F-2 AGENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS UNITS IN BARRANQUILLA, MEDELLIN, CALI, AND PASTO AS PART OF F-2'S AMBITIOUS PLAN TO INCREASE ITS NARCOTICS INTERDICTION COVERAGE WITH AN ASSIST FROM CCINC FINANCING (BOGOTA A-113). DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A U.S. CUSTOMS TRAINING TEAM ALSO GAVE THREE WEEKS OF NARCOTICS INSTRUCTION TO 16 GOC CUSTOMS RESGUARDO (PATROL) OFFICERS. THESE OFFICIALS WILL TRAIN OTHERS IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TECHNIQUES. A 90-DAY TDY US CUSTOMS TRAINING ADVISOR IS FOLLOWING-UP ON THIS AND PREVIOUS US CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND WILL ASSIST GOC CUSTOMS IN DEVELOPING BETTER NARCOTICS TRAINING FOR ITS AGENTS AND PATROL OFFICERS. AT PRESENT, TWO F-2 AND TWO GOC CUSTOMS NARCOTICS AGENTS ARE RECEIVING DEA TRAINING IN WASHINGTON, AND FOUR OTHER GOC CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE IN THE US FOR CCINC-CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAMS.

7. REGIONAL COOPERATION. SEE OPERATION FUNNEL ABOVE.

8. MISSION AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES:

A. ON SEPT 28, THE MISSION AND THE GOC SIGNED A \$3.7 MILLION NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECT AGREEMENT PROVIDING CCINC FUNDING (BOGOTA 9938) FOR THE CREATION OF A NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT WHOSE QUICK-REACTION CAPABILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES WILL BE SHARED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL FOUR GOC DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL FUND THE PURCHASE OF THREE HELICOPTERS, TRAINING, ADVISORY, TECHNICAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, AND COMMUNICATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW AIR UNIT. THE GOC WILL PROVIDE FOUR FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT FOR THE UNIT. AID-COLOMBIA AND SER/INC PERSONNEL ARE ALREADY WORKING TO IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE AIR UNIT PROAG, WITH A TARGET DATE OF JAN 1977 FOR OPERATIONAL START-UP.

B. CORRECTION: IN OUR LAST QUARTERLY REPORT (BOGOTA 5826) WE NOTED THAT LONG-TIME F-2 NARCO UNIT COMMANDER CAPT THEODORO CAMPO WAS BEING TRANSFERRED AND REPLACED BY ANOTHER NATIONAL POLICE OFFICER. THIS DECISION WAS LATER REVERSED AND CAMPO--WHO HAS HEADED THE F-2 UNIT SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1972--HAS BEEN RE-CONFIRMED IN THAT JOB BY NEW NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MAJOR GENERAL LUIS VALDERRAMA NUNEZ.

C. THE STATE OF SEIGE IMPOSED BY THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION IN JUNE 1975, WAS LIFTED IN LATE JUNE 1976. THIS MEANS THAT DRUG TRAFFICKERS--INCLUDING AMERICAN CITIZENS--ARE ONCE AGAIN BEING TRIED BY CIVILIAN CRIMINAL COURTS UNDER NORMAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURES. DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES PENDING IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO REGULAR CRIMINAL COURTS. PENALTIES FOR NARCOTICS

TRAFFICKING ARE NOT RPT NOT AFFECTED BY SUSPENSION OF THE STATE
OF SEIGE.

9. ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES HAVE
PICKED-UP FOLLOWING A SIX-MONTH LULL. MOST NEW ARRESTEES ARE
YOUNG AMERICANS WHO WERE SUMMER-VACATIONING IN COLOMBIA AND DECIDED
TO MAKE A QUICK DEAL ON A LESSER AMOUNT OF COCAINE FOR PERSONAL
USE OR LATER SALE IN THE US. COUNTING THIS RASH OF NEW
ARRESTS AND SUBTRACTNG LON-TERM US PRISONERS NOW BEING
RELEASED, THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVING TIME OR
AWAITING TRIAL FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES IN COLOMBIA IS HOLDING
STEADY AT JUST UNDER NINETY.
SANCHEZ

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AMCMNSUL MEDELLIN
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